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Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Children's Television Obligations of Digital Television Broadcaster, MM Docket No. 00-167; Second Periodic Review of the Commission's Rules and Policies Affecting the Conversion To Digital Television, MB Docket No. 03-15, RM 9832; Digital Carriage Rules, CS Docket No. 98-120

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to section 1.1206 (b)(2) of the Commission's rules, we hereby submit this notice regarding an *ex parte* meeting in the above-referenced proceedings.

On Wednesday, December 17, 2003, representatives of the Children's Media Policy Coalition met with FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy and her Mass Media Advisor, Stacy Fuller. Attending the meeting were Patti Miller, director of the Children and the Media Program at Children Now; Dr. Dale Kunkel, Department of Communications at the University of California Santa Barbara; Gloria Tristani, Children Now board member; Jeff McIntyre of the American Psychological Association; and Angela J. Campbell, Director of the Institute for Public Representation at Georgetown University Law Center.

The Children's Media Policy Coalition urged the Commission to adopt public interest guidelines to ensure that children's educational and informational needs are met before acting on digital must-carry rules. Noting that the public interest proceeding had been pending for some time, Dr. Kunkel stated that "the FCC should not privilege the economic interests of the broadcasters over the interests of children."

Coalition members also summarized the proposals made in the Coalition's comments. First, they urged the Commission to adopt programming guidelines for broadcasters that reflect the

technical capabilities and increased channel capacity of digital television. The Coalition recommended that any increase in multicasting channel capacity that broadcasters choose to implement should translate into a commensurate increase in the amount of programming available to children. For instance, the Commission could adopt a guideline that three percent of a broadcaster's total programming should be educational or informational (E/I) programming, giving broadcasters flexibility concerning the program stream. It could also retain the three-hour guideline for the "primary" channel, but require additional service to children which could take the form of additional E/I programming, educational datacasting or financial support for noncommercial educational children's programming. Coalition members supported the idea of a channel dedicated to children's programming, so long as it contained a substantial amount of E/I programming and was available to households with cable.

Second, coalition members noted that digital technology could be used to better help parents find E/I programming and avoid programming inappropriate for children. With digital technology, onscreen links could give parents detailed information about the nature of the programming.

Finally, Coalition members noted that the existing children's advertising policy needs to be updated for digital broadcasting. The current separation policy dividing children's programming from advertising should be adapted to take account of interactive capabilities.

Yours truly,

Angela J. Campbell